Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament"

Report submitted by Ireland

1. States parties agreed in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that there should be regular reports, within the framework of the NPT strengthened review process, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament".

2. Ireland hereby submits its report to the first Preparatory Committee meeting of the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

3. During the last NPT Review Conference in 2005, Ireland participated actively, including as a member both of the New Agenda Coalition and of the European Union.

4. In 2006, Ireland, together with its partners in the New Agenda Coalition, co-sponsored General Assembly resolution 61/65 (Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: accelerating the implementation of nuclear disarmament commitments).

Implementation of the 13 practical steps for the systematic and progressive efforts to implement article VI of the NPT and paragraphs 3 and 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament" included in the Final Document adopted by consensus at the 2000 Review Conference:

Step 1

The importance and urgency of signatures and ratifications, without delay and without conditions and in accordance with constitutional processes, to achieve the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.

5. Ireland ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in July 1999 and has advocated the urgent need for its entry into force without delay and without

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conditions. Ireland has worked in support of this objective within the European Union and the New Agenda Coalition. Ireland continues to see the Treaty as one of the fundamental building blocks in a step by step approach on the road to nuclear disarmament.

Step 2

A moratorium on nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosion pending entry into force of that Treaty.

6. Ireland, along with its European Union partners, has urged all States to abide by a moratorium pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and to refrain from any actions which are contrary to the obligations and provisions of the Treaty.

Step 3

The necessity of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator in 1995 and the mandate contained therein, taking into consideration both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation objectives. The Conference on Disarmament is urged to agree on a programme of work, which includes the immediate commencement of negotiations on such a treaty with a view to their conclusion within five years.

7. Ireland has been a member of the Conference on Disarmament since 1999 and has actively supported efforts to break the deadlock on the work programme. While disappointed that it has not proved possible to meet the deadline set for the conclusion of a fissile material treaty, Ireland has been encouraged by the structured and substantive debates at the Conference on Disarmament in 2006 and early in 2007. These have helped generate a new momentum. Ireland strongly supports the formal proposal tabled recently by the 2007 six Presidents and hopes that this can break the deadlock and enable substantive work to resume. We maintain the view that this year the Conference on Disarmament should begin negotiations without preconditions on a treaty dealing with fissile material. We believe that for such a treaty to be meaningful it must include a verification mechanism and cover existing stocks.

Step 4

The necessity of establishing in the Conference on Disarmament an appropriate subsidiary body with a mandate to deal with nuclear disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament is urged to agree on a programme of work which includes the immediate establishment of such a body.

8. In addition, Ireland continues to favour the early establishment of a subsidiary body to deal specifically with the issue of nuclear disarmament. We also see merit in embarking on a process that will eventually lead to an agreement on the non-weaponization of outer space.

Step 5

The principle of irreversibility to apply to nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures.

9. The principle of irreversibility is a fundamental one which must be applied to all disarmament and arms control measures (regardless of whether they are unilateral, bilateral or multilateral). Ireland considers the application of this principle is the only guarantee against the possibility of redeployment.

Step 6

An unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament to which all States parties are committed under article VI.

10. Ireland as a member of the New Agenda Coalition continues to press for verifiable progress under this step. The fulfilment, by the nuclear-weapon States, of this unequivocal undertaking is a basic necessity for the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Step 7

The early entry into force and full implementation of START II and the conclusion of START III as soon as possible while preserving and strengthening the ABM Treaty as a cornerstone of strategic stability and as a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons, in accordance with its provisions.

11. Developments since 2000 have not removed the need for a basis for further reductions of strategic offensive weapons. Ireland notes the conclusion of the Moscow Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation but questions its contribution to effective nuclear disarmament. As we have emphasized, through the New Agenda Coalition, reductions in the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads, while welcome, are not a substitute for irreversible cuts in, and the total elimination of, nuclear weapons.

Step 8

The completion and implementation of the Trilateral Initiative between the United States of America, the Russian Federation and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

12. Ireland continues to support this initiative and would welcome regular updates on progress from the parties involved.

Step 9

Steps by all the nuclear-weapon States leading to nuclear disarmament in a way that promotes international stability, and based on the principle of undiminished security for all:

- *Further efforts by the nuclear-weapon States to reduce their nuclear arsenals unilaterally.*
- *Increased transparency by the nuclear-weapon States with regard to their nuclear weapons capabilities and the implementation of agreements pursuant*

to article VI and as a voluntary confidence-building measure to support further progress on nuclear disarmament.

- *The further reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons, based on unilateral initiatives and as an integral part of the nuclear arms reduction and disarmament process.*
- *Concrete agreed measures to further reduce the operational status of nuclear weapons systems.*
- *A diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that these weapons ever be used and to facilitate the process of their total elimination.*
- *The engagement as soon as appropriate of all the nuclear-weapon States in the process leading to the total elimination of their nuclear weapons.*

13. As a non-nuclear weapon State, Ireland can only press for progress on the implementation of these steps. We have stressed in particular the importance of the principle of transparency contained in this step. In the interests of transparency, and as a baseline for future disarmament measures, Ireland has called upon the nuclear-weapon States to publish their aggregate holdings of nuclear weapons on active and reserve status, and to do so in a consistent and uniform manner. Together with the principles of irreversibility and verification, this should apply to all disarmament and arms control efforts.

Step 10

Arrangements by all nuclear-weapon States to place, as soon as practicable, fissile material designated by each of them as no longer required for military purposes under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) or other relevant international verification and arrangements for the disposition of such material for peaceful purposes, to ensure that such material remains permanently outside of military programmes.

14. Ireland calls on nuclear-weapon States that have not yet done so to make such arrangements.

Step 11

Reaffirmation that the ultimate objective of the efforts of States in the disarmament process is general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

15. Ireland works actively in a number of disarmament forums and is a State party, inter alia, to the NPT, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the Ottawa Convention. Speaking in his statement to the last NPT Review Conference in 2005, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D., reaffirmed "our faith in the multilateral regime of disarmament and in non-proliferation treaties and agreements which provide the legal and normative basis for all our efforts. We remain committed to upholding, implementing and strengthening these instruments and to pursuing actively the universalization of the norms they set out". Ireland is also active in working within the European Union to strengthen the Union's policy on weapons of mass destruction.

16. Ireland also participates in a number of multilateral export control forums, namely the Australia Group, the Missile Technology Control Regime, the Nuclear Suppliers Group, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Zangger Committee. Ireland sees effective export control as complementary to multilateral disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts.

Step 12

Regular reports, within the framework of the NPT strengthened review process, by all States parties on the implementation of article VI and paragraph 4 (c) of the 1995 Decision on "Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament", and recalling the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996.

17. Ireland considers regular reporting to be a key element of the 13 steps and presented reports during the last NPT review cycle. Ireland views reporting not as an end in itself but as an important tool in strengthening the NPT process, through greater transparency.

Step 13

The further development of the verification capabilities that will be required to provide assurance of compliance with nuclear disarmament agreements for the achievement and maintenance of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

18. The 2000 Review Conference specifically endorsed the measures of the Model Additional Protocol approved by IAEA. Ireland fully supports IAEA in its verification tasks and strongly favours a system of strengthened IAEA Safeguards. We have urged all States, regardless of the size or nature of their nuclear programme, which have not yet signed and ratified an Additional Protocol to do so.